

TAXIS — PLATES — BUYBACK SCHEME

**60. Mr Y. MUBARAKAI to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's support for struggling mum and dad taxi plate owners, who, as the member for South Perth said in 2016, "had given so much to the Western Australian community".

Can the minister advise the house what feedback she has received from the community since the Liberal Party announced it would oppose the industry-funded buyback scheme and abandon those small businesses?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

I thank the member for Jandakot for that question and for advocating on behalf of small business owners in his electorate, of course with his strong small business background. Many taxi plate owners have contacted us —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members on both sides of the house, I want to hear the answer!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Many are shocked that the Liberal Party has abandoned small business yet again. We saw that when they were in government, hiking up land tax and impacting small business day after day after day, and now they are —

**Mrs L.M. Harvey** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Scarborough!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Now they are abandoning small business operators yet again—the imposters that they are. They go around saying that they support small business operators. They are absolute imposters.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Of course, when we were in opposition, members opposite were in government. The member for South Perth said, "We want a levy and we want a buyback now."

Several members interjected.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Member for South Perth, do you stand by that? He stands by wanting a levy and a buyback.

**Mrs L.M. Harvey** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Scarborough!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Good on the member for South Perth.

**Mrs L.M. Harvey** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Scarborough, I will not warn you again.

**Dr M.D. Nahan:** What did you say?

**The SPEAKER:** I will say that you are called to order for the first time, Leader of the Opposition.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** I will tell members what the Leader of the Opposition said when he was in government —

"We regulate now and people, in good faith, have come in and invested huge amounts of money on plates, and we have to address their legitimate property rights.

That is what the Leader of the Opposition said.

**Dr M.D. Nahan** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, here we go again, a fresh week—undisciplined. I know that as the Leader of the Opposition you have to take it to the government, but not when the minister is answering and everyone else is quiet.

*Point of Order*

**Mrs L.M. HARVEY:** I draw your attention to standing order 92, which states —

Imputations of improper motives and personal reflections on the Sovereign, the Governor, a judicial officer or members of the Assembly or the Council are disorderly other than by substantive motion.

I ask you, Mr Speaker, are you exempt from standing order 92? You just made a personal reflection on the behaviour of the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr Yaz Mubarakai; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr David Templeman; Mr Sean L'Estrange

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**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** There is no point of order and if the member wishes to dissent from your ruling, Mr Speaker, there is a process for that.

**Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE:** There is no dissent from your ruling because you have not ruled on the point of order yet, Mr Speaker.

**The SPEAKER:** If everyone were to stop standing up, I could! Member, I am trying to educate the Leader of the Opposition that he keeps interjecting all the time. I warn him two or three times more than anyone else. If you think that I am being too harsh, have a go, but I give the Leader of the Opposition more leeway than any other person. If you are not happy with that, you can move a substantive motion. All I am trying to do is have question time with questions and answers and get a result, but when the Leader of the Opposition continually interjects, it is very hard for me to run a proper question time.

**Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE:** Mr Speaker, can you clarify for me the ruling on that point of order, whether it is in order or not, please.

**The SPEAKER:** It would be a point of order if it were correct. I do not think it is correct. It is a point of order that I have made comments about the Leader of the Opposition. I keep telling him the same thing every time but it does not have any effect, so I have to find a way to run a proper question time. As I say, I do not mind interjections but when everything else is done, the Leader of the Opposition keeps going on and on and I think we have to have certain standards in the Parliament.

**Mr S.K. L'ESTRANGE:** Further to the member for Scarborough's point of order, I am asking you to order on whether her point of order is in order or out of order.

**The SPEAKER:** It is out of order.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** The Leader of the Opposition's exact words were —

... people, ... have come in and invested huge amounts of money on plates, and we have to address their legitimate property rights.

That was when he was the so-called friend of small business. Now, members opposite have turned their back on small business in WA.

**Dr M.D. Nahan** interjected.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** We know why they stuffed up the —

**The SPEAKER:** Excuse me, minister. Leader of the Opposition, I keep telling you, you just cannot do that. I do not want to keep calling you to order all the time. It is your job to hold the government to task but all you are doing is just arguing and there is no sense to it.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** The Leader of the Opposition is not meant to interject. The Leader of the Opposition does not understand that he is not meant to interject.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members, I have just about had enough of this. If this continues, there will be no more question time.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** They are very sensitive about this issue, because they privately sit with the taxi plate owners and say, "We think you deserve more." That is what the member for Scarborough says in her office—"We think you deserve more"—and they come here and they turn their backs on small business operators in Western Australia. The member for South Perth has stood up for small business operators in WA. Member for Carine, do you still support a levy and a buyback? You know you do!

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, through the Chair.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** The member for Carine sits privately with his donors and talks about how he supports taxi plate operators in WA, and turns —

**Mr A. Krsticevic** interjected.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Industry funded buyback —

**Mr A. Krsticevic:** That's not your election commitment.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Yes, it is. It is a pretty funny buyback!

Several members interjected.

**Extract from *Hansard***

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Mr Yaz Mubarakai; Ms Rita Saffioti; Mrs Liza Harvey; Mr David Templeman; Mr Sean L'Estrange

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**The SPEAKER:** Member for Carine, three times I told you not to interject. I call you to order for the first time.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** The member for South Perth has the guts to stand up for what he stood up for in opposition, and the member for Carine—slippery as always—tried to get out of what he stood up for in opposition. We can see why they stuffed up the finances when two people who are meant to be economic lecturers do not understand the difference between a temporary levy and a tax in Western Australia. That is what you learn in economics 101. Just think that these people actually lectured WA students about economics when they do not know the difference between an industry funded buyback and a tax. This is our package. If members opposite turn their backs on small business operators again, everyone in WA will know yet again that they have failed small business in WA.